

CHAPTER 602

(Senate Bill 703)

AN ACT concerning

Nurses - Transition Courses

FOR the purpose of specifying that a registered nurse who graduated prior to a certain date from a Diploma Nursing Program or Associate Degree Nursing Program may take certain transition courses to validate prior learning, prior to beginning a certain baccalaureate program; specifying certain requirements and conditions; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to transition courses for certain nurses.

Preamble

WHEREAS, Beginning in 1985 a series of 3 transition courses were developed by the Commission of Nursing Education and offered to registered nurses who graduated before 1979 from Diploma and Associate Degree programs for the validation of prior learning to facilitate entry into a baccalaureate program without repeating course work previously taken; and

WHEREAS, These transition courses are offered at 5 schools of nursing in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of nurses have completed the 3 transition courses and gone on to attain a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Over 417 students have registered for the 1988 fall semester to take advantage of these transition courses; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is experiencing a shortage of registered nurses in hospitals and nursing homes; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is working hard to retain nurses in the profession and recognize the validity of their former course work; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need to continue the series of transition courses as part of Maryland's continuing effort to alleviate the shortage of registered nurses and to retain nurses in the profession; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That: